



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



June 18, 2004

Volume 1, Number 21

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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES CONSOLIDATION OF DRA'S BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

The Raleigh City Council approved consolidating two business improvement districts (BIDs) in the downtown area during its meeting June 15.

The Downtown Raleigh Alliance (DRA) requested the two BIDs be consolidated into one BID because more services are being provided in one of the districts than was projected when the council created the BIDs in June 2000. BIDs are a funding mechanism used to provide revenue for a variety of services that enhance existing municipal services in the business improvement district. Additional revenue collected from special assessments on property owners in the two downtown area BIDs are used for additional cleaning and safety patrol services, and for downtown economic development, marketing and advocacy programs administered by the DRA.

The largest of the two downtown BIDs --referred to as BID 1 -- is generally bounded by Boylan Avenue and railroad tracks on the west; Peace Street and Peace College on the north; Blount, Person and Bloodworth streets on the east; and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the south. BID 2 is bounded by McDowell Street on the west; Hillsborough Street and Morgan Street on the north; South Wilmington Street and South Blount Street on the east; and Lenoir Street and South Street on the south.

Because of growth -- especially in Glenwood South, the Warehouse District and the Moore Square area -- BID 1 is receiving a greater percentage of services than originally anticipated. This has resulted in a shortfall in revenues generated by the BID. The shortfall totaled about \$60,000 in Fiscal Year 2003.

To make up the shortfall, the two BIDs will be consolidated into one district beginning July 1. The special assessment rate for the consolidated BID will be \$0.0786 per \$100 assessed property value, the amount currently being paid by property owners in BID 2. BID 1 property owners now pay a special assessment of \$0.0387 per \$100 assessed property value. Their assessment rate will go up by \$0.0399. On property assessed at \$200,000 in BID 1, the increase will amount to \$77.40.

THE FIVE IN FIVE WORK PLAN

Fayetteville Street Renaissance

Goal: Reinvigorate Fayetteville Street as the heart of Raleigh, the ceremonial corridor and the premier Downtown address for office, events and cultural activity. The top action items:

- Make active uses mandatory for ground floors fronting Fayetteville Street and provide incentives to encourage them.
- Fill in development gaps.
- Open available blocks to vehicular activity; in phases, beginning with the 200 and 300 blocks.
- Re-establish the capitol vista - Develop outdoor festival and performance space.

Convention Center

Goal: Develop and market competitive facilities to attract more national conventions and trade shows, and improve the business environment for hotels, restaurants and other visitor serving facilities. The top action items:

- Get new downtown convention center and convention center hotel adopted and funded.
- Solve lobby access.
- Suggest future expansion to south.
- Investigate mixed-use and roof-top uses.
- Develop strategy for active edge on Cabarrus Street.

WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE APPROVED FOR FAYETTEVILLE STREET

The Raleigh City Council voted June 15 to establish a wireless internet system along Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh.

The City will enter into a contract with Raleigh-based WindChannel Communications to provide the wireless internet service. The capital cost for the project will be approximately \$3,500. There will be an additional ongoing service fee of \$295 a month.

An increasingly popular and valuable service used by many cities throughout the nation, wireless internet could be activated immediately for use by Fayetteville Street businesses and their patrons. The service also will provide the City with a valuable marketing tool for the "Livable Street" Downtown Plan -- the Fayetteville Street Renaissance Project, an economic development and revitalization effort for the downtown street. The first phase of the Renaissance Project is remaking the pedestrian mall, including reopening it to vehicular traffic in the 100 to 400 blocks. The wireless internet service will be of beneficial use to contractors working on reconstruction of Fayetteville Street and on construction of the new downtown convention center and headquarters.

CITY TO LEASE DOWNTOWN PARKING LOTS; OPEN THEM AT NIGHT FOR DOWNTOWN VISITORS

The City of Raleigh will lease four large parking lots in downtown's warehouse district and open them to the public at night. The City Council approved the leasing arrangement during its meeting on Tuesday.

"We are helping to make available parking resources that have not been open to the public at night to encourage people to come downtown and enjoy our fine restaurant and entertainment opportunities," Assistant City Manager Julian Prosser said.

The four parking lots have a total of 250 parking spaces. The lots are located on the north and south sides of West Hargett Street between Harrington and West streets, the east side of South Harrington Street between Hargett and Martin streets, and south of West Martin Street near the railroad tracks. (continued page 3)

Improve the Pedestrian Environment

Goal: Create an attractive, well lit, safe environment that links office and residential areas to amenities such as restaurants, museums and arts venues. Make downtown accessible to all. The top action items:

- Require pedestrian oriented ground level uses with high level of detail, i.e. doorways, windows, awnings and overhangs, along the sidewalk edge in downtown.
- Connect existing and emerging neighborhoods to Fayetteville Street.
- Further study converting east / west one-way streets to two-way.
- Investigate federal funding sources.
- Connect TTA Regional Rail station area with pedestrian linkages.

Regulatory Reform

Goal: Improve business environment by removing regulatory impediments; make it at least as easy to do business downtown as any place else in the region; include incentives in regulations. The top action items:

- Centralize approvals: Establish a downtown team within the city to respond to major project proposals and construction quickly. Develop a parallel strategy for small/mid-sized projects.
- Centralize the approvals process by creating a team within the city to respond to development proposals.
- Provide development incentives for vacant buildings and properties.
- Address issues dealing with outdoor dining, signage and other pedestrian encroachments.

(continued from page 2)

Beginning Aug. 1, the City will lease the parking lots from Dillon Supply Co. for \$50,000 a year. Signs that have kept vehicles out of the lots will be taken down. The City will continue to rent the spaces to daytime workers on a monthly basis. The lots will be open to nighttime and weekend downtown visitors from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following day. The parking fee will be \$3 at night and on weekends. The City administration expects that income from the monthly and nightly parking will cover all the costs associated with leasing the lots.

The City will manage, operate and clean the lots using employees who already work at City-owned parking decks downtown. Also, the City will not allow towing from the lots but will enforce other parking regulations to prevent motorists from illegally parking their vehicles in the spaces

CITY TO BEGIN SPECIAL RATE PILOT PROJECT FOR TWO DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGES ON JULY 1

To help alleviate on-street parking congestion and encourage use of the top levels of downtown parking facilities, the Raleigh City Council on May 18 approved a plan for a tiered-parking pilot program at City-owned parking garages.

The pilot program for the Wilmington Street and Moore Square parking decks allows parking on the top level for a \$35 monthly fee. A recent study by staff found the top level of the garages to be under used. The program will encourage use by downtown workers that may be using on-street parking or other surface parking lots. If the pilot is successful, the program may be expanded to other City-owned parking facilities. To participate in the tiered-parking pilot program, contact McLaurin Parking at 833-7522.

Downtown Management

Goal: Take a "one-stop shopping" approach to the management and marketing of downtown. The top action items:

- Develop a comprehensive Downtown marketing program, including an expanded website. It should be developed and coordinated with all downtown resources to promote events and attractions. Maximize the capitol status.
- Create a downtown development corporation.
- Make Downtown Raleigh Alliance the organization responsible for bringing all parties to the table to oversee implementation of the vision.
- Explore development incentives and options similar to tax increment financing.



Livable Streets

	Date/Time	Purpose
State of North Carolina/State Property Office Blount Street Redevelopment	June 28 & June 29 5:00 p.m. Daniels Auditorium NC Museum of History	Placemaking workshop
New Convention Center Design Concept	July 13, 5:00 p.m. Raleigh Convention and Conference Center	Uniqueness of place
New Convention Center Design Concept	August 10, 5:00 p.m. Raleigh Convention and Conference Center	Character options
New Convention Center Design Concept	September 14, 5:00 p.m. Raleigh Convention and Conference Center	Schematic design progress

THE FIVE IN FIVE GOALS



1. **Complete a Fayetteville Street Renaissance** to reinvigorate the Street as the heart of Raleigh, our ceremonial corridor and the premiere address for office, events and cultural activity.
2. **Fund and build a new Convention Center & Hotel** to attract conventions and trade shows and improve the business environment for hotels, restaurants and other visitor services.
3. **Improve the pedestrian environment** making downtown accessible to everyone. Balance the needs of pedestrians against those of the car. Create an attractive, well lit, safe environment that links office and residential uses to amenities such as restaurants, museums and other venues.
4. **Undertake regulatory reform** to improve the business climate by re-moving regulatory impediments, making it just as easy to do business downtown as any place in the region. Explore adding incentives in the regulations.
5. **Expand downtown management** to take a one stop approach to management and advocacy.

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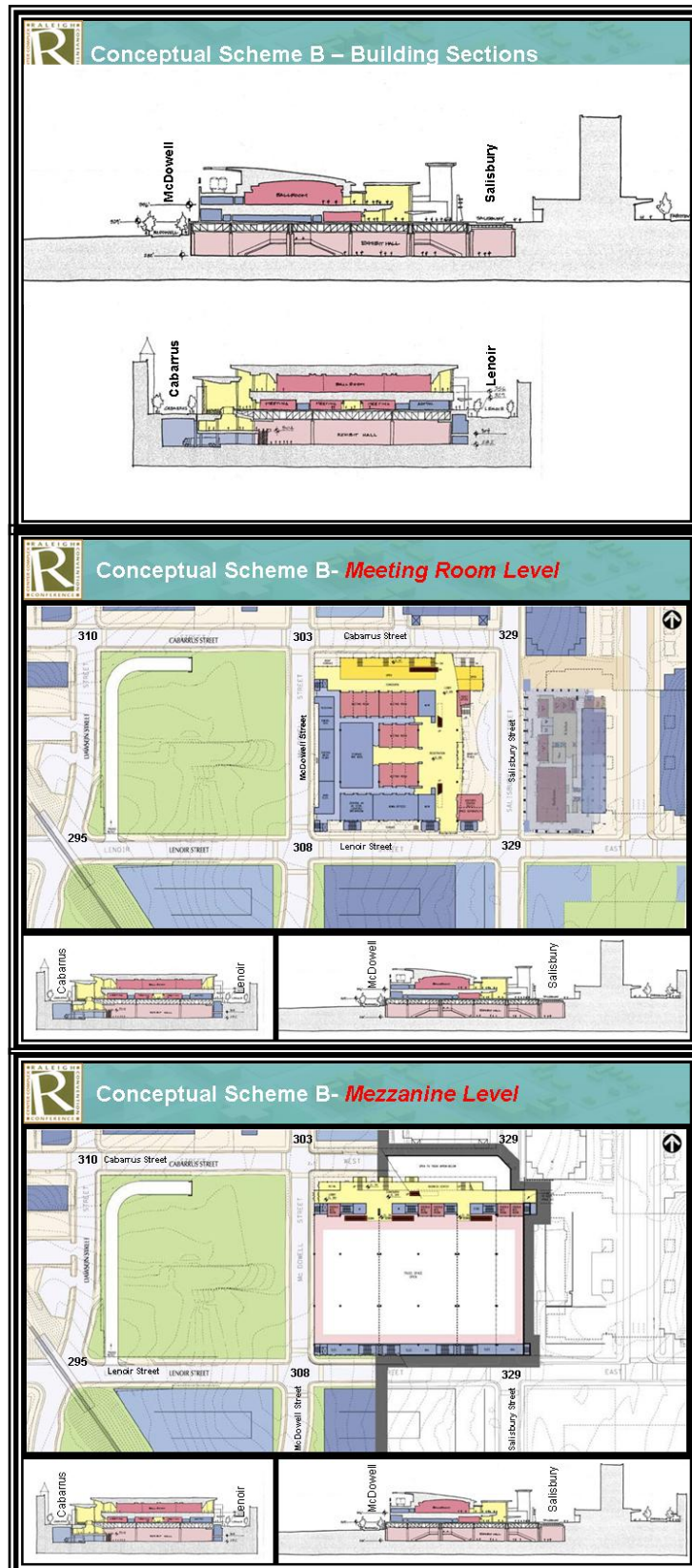
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CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF NEW CONVENTION CENTER



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Web links

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www.raleigh-nc.org

Wake County
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Downtown Raleigh Alliance
www.downtownraleigh.org

Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
www.raleighchamber.org

Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau
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